

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 5, 11 and 12-31 are currently active in this case. Claims 6 and 7 have been cancelled, Claim 5 has been amended, and Claims 12-31 have been added by way of the present amendment. Each new and amended claim is supported by the specification and claims as originally submitted and no new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Official Action Claims 1-4 and 8-10 were withdrawn from consideration; Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Minarik* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,018,644); Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Minarik* in view of *McCollum et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 5,666,646); Claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten; and Claim 11 was allowed.

Applicants have amended Claim 5 to include the subject matter of Claim 6 that has already been deemed allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 5 is patentable over the cited art references.

Applicants have added new Claims 12-31. Support for each of the new Claims is found in Applicants' specification, including: Claim 12 at page 4, line 24 through page 5, line 1, and page 8 lines 11-13; Claim 13 at page 9, lines 21-24, and page 5, lines 1-2; Claims 14 and 15 in the Title, Abstract and generally throughout the application; Claims 16 and 25 at page 9, line 18; Claims 17 and 27-30 at page 10, lines 22-25; Claims 18 and 19 at page 7, lines 16-23; Claims 20 and 21 at page 8, lines 1-3; Claims 22 and 31 at page 8, lines 9-10; and Claims 23 and 26 at page 9, lines 22-24, page 10, lines 2-3 and lines 17-18.

Each new dependent claim depends from an original claim that has either been allowed or amended to include allowable subject matter. Accordingly,

Applicants respectfully submit that each new dependent Claim is also patentable over the cited art references.

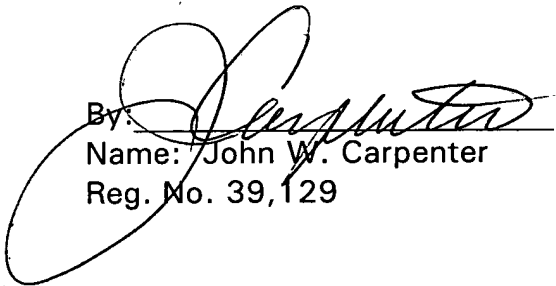
Consequently, no further issues are believed to be outstanding, and it is respectfully submitted that this case is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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